GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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RUMANIAN PEASANT MOTHERS, OLD AND YOUNG (See Bulletin No. 4)
The peasants marry early in Rumania, and the ceremonies accompanying a country wedding still preserve the tradition of marriage by capture. In some districts a flower is painted on the walls of the cottage which is the home of a girl of marriageable age. Note how curiously the babies are bundled.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Antwerp: A Latter-Day Athens

ANTWERP, where the United States athletes performed so notably in the 1920 Olympic Games, was Europe's Hamburg of the sixteenth century and the Athens of the seventeenth. This city compels American admiration by its phenomenal power to "come back." Crushed by wars, inquisitions, economic bans and persecutions of its people, Antwerp always has risen again.

Figures tell the story. Population in 1568, 125,000; twenty years later, only 55,000. From 1800 to 1850 the population almost doubled. To its 290,000 in 1904, a hundred thousand more were added before the Germans came in October, 1914. The 12,160 vessels that passed in and out of its fine harbor in 1905 marked an increase of more than 50 per cent since 1888.

Story Is Epic of Repeated Tragedies

Not that Antwerp is a perennial boom town. It is at least 15 centuries old. And during that time its story is one of struggle against repeated tragedies. When the Germans invaded the city its noble cathedral tower looked down on just one more, though infinitely more cruel, blow of the sort it had been receiving since the middle ages. Napoleon (some say Charles V) compared this tower to Mechlin lace. Its delicate chiselling forms a network of stone embroidery against the sky that can be seen from the surrounding flat country, and from the winding Scheldt, long before any other building in Antwerp is visible.

By 1600 five hundred ships often came and went from Antwerp's harbor in a day and two thousand wagon loads of merchandise usually entered its gates. A thousand foreign business houses were represented there. Its own merchant princes dwelt in almost regal splendor.

Amid this material wealth noble works of art were created. In the city's museum were collected specimens of its glorious school-paintings by Van Dyck, the Teniers, Memling, Massys, Jordaens, Jan van Eyck and Rubens, though the last named was better represented in the cathedral by his masterpiece, "The Descent from the Cross," and two other noted works.

An Elbert Hubbard of the Middle Ages

In the Museo Plantin were relics of that Elbert Hubbard of the middle ages, Christophe Plantin, whose press product was no less distinctive when heretic pamphlets were struck off than when devout religious works were printed and embossed.

During the religious disturbances of the mid-sixteenth century the cathedral, then considered second only to St. Peter's, at Rome, was pillaged by the Iconoclasts. Its images and pictures, its magnificent vases, its 66 altars and its great organ, considered the finest of its time, were burned or broken by the torch-bearing vandals. Whitewashed walls reminded twentieth century tourists of these depredations.

Other churches were ravaged at that time. But what Antwerp suffered then was mild compared to the horrors of "the Spanish Fury," in 1576, when

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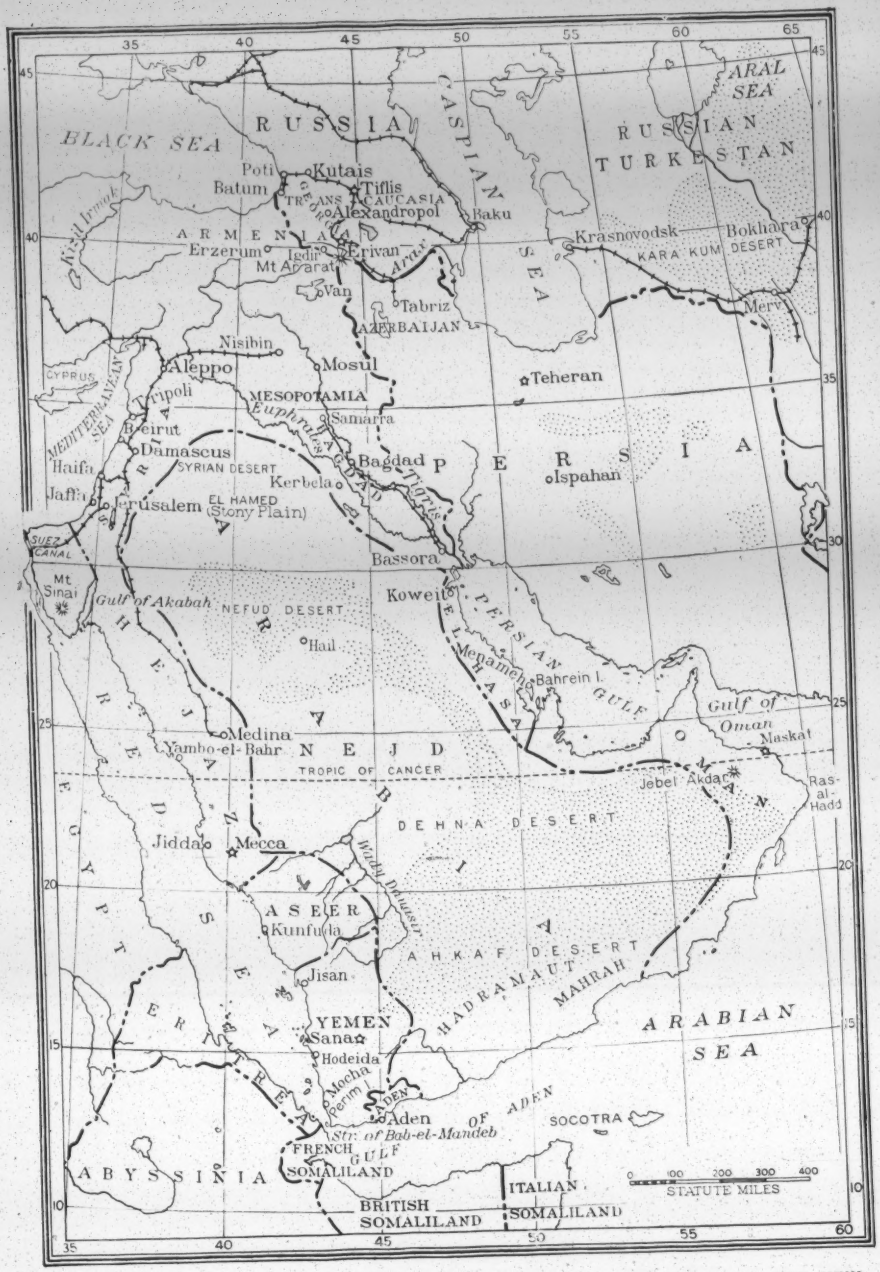

A SKETCH MAP OF ARABIA, SHOWING THE GEOGRAPHICAL RELATION OF THE NEW KINGDOM OF HEJAZ, SYRIA, MESOPOTAMIA, AND ARMENIA

Work of construction on the two most famous railways in the Near East—the Damascus to Mecca Pilgrims' line and the Berlin to Bagdad steel highway—was interrupted by the World War. After the armistice operations were resumed on the missing link of the latter, between Nisibin and Samarra, and the Pilgrims' line is being pushed southward from Medina. (See Bulletin No. 3)

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Finland: Where Women Won Vote by Helping Settle a Strike

VICTORY for woman suffrage in the United States adds interest to the experiences of Finland, where women won the franchise by their part in quelling labor troubles similar to those which now assail the United States. Incidentally, Finland was one of the first portions of the old Russian Empire to set up a constitutional government.

The advent and progress of suffrage in Finland is described in a communication to The National Geographic Society by Baroness Alletta Korff as follows:

"From an educational point of view the women in Finland have been very fortunate, as there are many excellent schools for girls and a number of coeducational schools throughout the country which prepare students for the University examinations. Girls were admitted to the University in 1878, and, until the war intervened, they not only attended lectures but took part in all branches of university life: they participated in all the celebrations and festivities, and were members of the various clubs and student organizations, in which they were on a footing of perfect equality with the men and frequently were elected to various official positions. After they were graduated from one of the several high schools or from the University there were many branches of work open to them.

Women Bank Cashiers Long a Familiar Sight

"They became teachers even in the state schools for boys, cashiers or bookkeepers in banks, clerks in the state archives, and in many branches of the civic administration. There are really not enough educated men to meet the requirements of the country, and consequently the cooperation of the women is a matter of vital importance. It not infrequently happened, in normal times, that even married women in comparatively good circumstances sought employment outside their homes.

"Having thus such an excellent foundation to build upon, it is small wonder that the woman's movement soon found many active supporters. In 1863 the Diet had accorded the municipal vote to women taxpayers living in the country, and in 1872 to women living in the towns, all of whom were also given the right to be elected members of certain local self-governing bodies. In 1900 the women social democrats included the suffrage in their program, but the special activity for the suffrage began only in the year 1904, although in 1897 a petition had been officially presented to the Diet at the request of the 'Finnish Woman's Association.'

Political Crisis Delayed Movement

"The reason why so little was done in direct furtherance of the cause of woman suffrage between the years 1897 and 1904 is that just at that time Finland was passing through a severe political crisis.

"After the outbreak of the October revolution in Russia (1905), a sympathetic strike was declared in Finland, and several of the members of the central committee elected by a mass meeting to manage the details of the strike were women.

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that latter-day Nero, the Duke of Alva, and his Council of Blood, began a reign of terror which savagery scarcely could surpass. Tying wealthy citizens to horses' tails he would drag them miles to "trial."

Scourge of the Invader

Antwerp suffered grievously from this debauch of hangings, quarterings, beheadings and butcheries. In three days 8,000 of her men, women and children were slain, burned or drowned; hundreds of the fine marble homes destroyed, and the equivalent of millions of dollars worth of property wrecked.

It was seven years later that the doughty citizens of Antwerp made short shrift of the Duke of Anjou's plotting against Flemish liberty. When the Duke and his men overcame the Flemish guard of a drawbridge, and 3,000 of the Duke's troops rushed in to take the city, workmen fought furiously with their tools, bakers cracked soldier pates with their oven shovels, and citizens grabbed arquebuses and chewed coins into shape to load them.

Not so successful was their resistance of the resourceful and patient Prince of Parma, whose prolonged siege included the reduction of the Scheldt to half its width at one point by two great piers. Guns were mounted on the fortified end of each pier, then the ends were connected by a sort of pontoon bridge, about a third of a mile long. Finally a canal was cut, in order to get munitions and supplies from Ghent.

When a River Was Swept by Flames

Antwerp's citizens waited in vain for floods and winter weather, ice and storms to demolish this barrier. Meanwhile they worked out a counter engineering project of equal ingenuity. One night suddenly turned brighter than day, and the waters of the Scheldt seemed to catch fire as if a vast river of oil had been ignited. Parma and his army discerned three masses of flame bearing down on their mid-river forts and bridge.

One of the floating fire ships struck the bridge. The massive timbers crumpled like paper. Cannon, men and machinery were mingled in air. Many officers and 800 soldiers either were blown to atoms, drowned, or burned to death.

Even this mighty effort did not dislodge the patient Prince of Parma and finally, after 14 months, the gallant city surrendered.

Antwerp sustained other blows than fighting. Heaviest of all was that when the Treaty of Munster, in 1648, closed the Scheldt to navigation.

One other siege of Antwerp was as interesting in its circumstances, if not in incident, as that of the Prince of Parma. Antwerp, in 1832, as in 1914, had the usual unfortunate experience of the innocent bystander.

Signing the Famous "Scrap of Paper"

With all the formalities that might mark a friendly boxing bout, an army from France, which was not at war with Holland, politely set about dislodging from Antwerp's citadel a Dutch garrison of 5,000 men commanded by General Chasse. Two years earlier, in London, the powers, including Prussia, recognized Belgium's freedom, and signed what one of them, Prussia, later was to term "a scrap of paper," guaranteeing Belgium's neutrality.

When Holland did not recall General Chasse, the English fleet and the French land force acted in the interests of peace between Belgium and Holland. General Chasse was notified he would get no aid from his government, but he decided to fight. First the combatants courteously arranged to regard the city as neutral. Despite the best of aims, marksmanship will err and Antwerp was damaged considerably during the three weeks' constant bombardment before General Chasse surrendered.

These are but high lights in the eventful history of Antwerp which might, without irreverence, be called "the city of sorrows." She has seen almost as many tragedies, played in as many keys, as there are bells in her majestic cathedral tower.

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Future of Syria Affects Civilized World

MORE and more frequently the spotlight swings to Syria. The Syrians declared their country independent and chose Prince Feisal as king. Feisal reigned a few days, the French set up a temporary government, and now Feisal seeks restoration.

Syria's future concerns the entire world, for it is coming into its own as a result of new railways which make it once more a link land in history's chain. Explaining the significance of recent events, a communication by Maynard Owen Williams says:

"Syria closes the east end of the Mediterranean and is bounded on the north by the Taurus Mountains. The Syrian and Arabian deserts limit further settlement to the east and south. But in connection with world commerce it has always been closely related to the fertile valleys of the Nile and the twin Mesopotamian rivers, and its commercial life of tomorrow cannot be divorced from that of Mesopotamia.

Once More a Nation's Fortunes Depend Upon Ports

"The future of Syria depends upon the development of two ports and upon who controls these strategic centers of politics and commerce. Alexandretta and Haifa attain new importance as the Dardanelles are internationalized and free passage, open to all nations, cuts across what Germany was forging as a Berlin-to-Bagdad route, all but 300 miles of which, between Nisibin and Tekrit, a few miles above Samarra, is now complete.

"This new line of traffic from Alexandretta past Aleppo to the Euphrates River at Jerablus, connecting the oldest routes of international commerce, also separates two important lingual groups, for Turkish is generally spoken to the north of the railway and Arabic to the south.

"Whatever political adjustment is made between England and France, Italy and Greece, Arabia and Syria, conservative Mecca and liberal Beirut, Zionist and Greek Orthodox, Christian and Moslem, Maronite and Druse, the line of division between the Turkish and Arabic tongues will be significant, for language differences as well as those of race exert a profound effect on political life in the Levant.

Haifa a Real Prize of the Near East

"The Haifa Railway separates northern Syria from the southern part, which has long been called Palestine. Haifa is of importance because it is the southernmost Syrian harbor capable of large development and is the terminus of the railway which is becoming the key to Jerusalem as well as the more important line to Damascus and Mesopotamia. It is the real prize of the Near East, for once more it is to become the greatest port of the eastern Mediterranean littoral, as it was when it served as the chief landing place of the Crusaders and the transshipment point of the Venetian, Pisan, and Genoese trade from argosy to caravan.

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"The first action taken by the committee was to close all the liquor shops, saloons, and bar-rooms, and to organize a volunteer police force to keep order. After the second day the markets were reopened and the strikers were not allowed to cut off the water supply. In short, the strike was managed in a most orderly and systematic way, and no outrages of any sort were committed.

Women Members in Deputations

"During the course of the strike numerous deputations were sent with petitions to the Governor General, and in each deputation there were women members. Thus, even in moments of grave political danger and at times when the utmost moderation and foresight were needed, the Finns were not afraid to trust their women.

"The very great interest that the women took in the elections may be gathered from the fact that in Helsingfors, the capital, at the time of the second elections (in 1908), there were 19,640 women voters and 15,516 men voters registered. As there were only 26 women elected in a house of 200, the majority of the women voted for men, but one woman received a larger number of votes than was given to any of the men candidates of her party."

AN ALASKAN AND HIS DUMB FRIEND, WHICH SUPPLIES FOOD, CLOTHING, AND TRANSPORTATION

One of the advantages which the reindeer herder enjoys over his southern brother herder of sheep and cattle is that in times of blizzard the deerman is not forced to remain with the herd. After the storm passes, he is able to estimate with approximate accuracy the location of his charges; for the reindeer, unlike most animals, prefers to travel against the wind and at uniform speed. The neck and shoulders of the deer are protected by a heavy growth of long, whitish hair.

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Rumania: Pawn of Many Wars

RUMANIA, which has attracted attention recently because of the visit of Prince Carol to this country, has been a center of European war storms for a thousand years.

Peter the Great once established a protectorate over the Rumanians and Catharine the Great later advanced a plan for the annexation of their territory to Russia. Fearing that such territorial expansion might be a menace to her, Austria persuaded Catharine to abandon the plan.

Rumania, approximately as we now know it, was formed from Moldavia and Wallachia in 1861. Previously these principalities had been under Turkish suzerainty, following Austria's protest against Russia's annexing them. Autonomy being guaranteed by the Powers which agreed to the union of the principalities, following the Crimean War, Rumanians chose an army officer, Col. Alexander Cuza, as their ruler. His title was Alexander John I, Prince of Rumania.

Kidnapping a Prince

When, seven years later, the element in power at Bucharest decided for a change of rulers there were few formalities. Invading the Prince's bed room by night, leaders of the group presented a certificate of abdication to be signed, and then bundled him in a carriage and put him aboard an express for Paris.

The Count of Flanders, brother to King Leopold of Belgium, was chosen by a provisional government. The Powers, especially Austria, protested, and Prince Charles (Carol), who had been an officer in the Prussian army, was substituted. He set about freeing the country from the suzerainty of Turkey.

When the Russo-Turkish storm clouds arose in 1875, Charles sought to have the Powers guarantee the neutrality of Rumania. He failed. Then an agreement was reached with Russia. Under its terms Russian troops were to have free passage through Rumania, while Russia was to respect the rights and defend the integrity of Rumania.

Bessarabia vs. Dobrudja

When the war began Rumania promptly declared herself independent of Turkey. As the war went on Russia needed help badly and finally Rumania responded to repeated appeals. Under Prince Carol, Rumanian and allied troops gained a decisive but costly victory before Plevna. Rumanian freedom was recognized in the treaty of San Stefano, and it furthermore was stipulated that Rumania was to get the swampy country known as Dobrudja, lying between the Danube, where it flows to the north, and the Black Sea. Russia was to have Bessarabia, territory claimed by Rumania and, in part, occupied by her.

Rumania protested bitterly against exchange of the picturesque Bessarabia for the ugly Dobrudja region. Russia threatened to disarm the Rumanian army, and Prince Carol pluckily responded that his army might be destroyed but it never would be disarmed.

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"Slowly but surely the iron rails are reaching out to bind Cape Town to Cairo and Suez to Shanghai by way of Persia, India, Burma, and the Yangtze Valley.

"Bold Bands of Shining Steel" Trace Future Empires

"The path of empire in the future will not alone be traced by the wakes of passing steamers, but also by bold bands of shining steel. The supreme strategy of a railway that will connect the valleys of the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates, the Indus, the Ganges, the Irriwaddy, and the Yangtze lies in the fact that it will be flanked by the most thickly settled portions of the world's surface and can, from the first, have commercial as well as strategic value.

"Syria is the hub of the Afro-Eurasian continents, and with every railway that reaches out to Bremen, Baku, Bokhara, Burma, or Bloemfontein the central region of the world's greatest land-mass achieves new significance.

"Aside from its importance as a trade route, Syria will find its greatest future as an agricultural nation, and has extensive regions which can be made to produce large crops."

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A RUMANIAN GIRL COMING FROM MARKET

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Canada May Adopt An Eskimo Industry

CONVERSION of the arctic and subarctic regions of Canada into a reindeer meat producing area is being considered by the Canadian government and is being widely discussed throughout the dominion.

A communication to The National Geographic Society recalls that reindeer were not indigenous to Alaska and tells the interesting story of their introduction there.

"The story of the inception and growth of the reindeer enterprise in Alaska is very interesting and is not generally known," says the writer. "During an extended trip of inspection of the missionary stations and government schools in 1890, Dr. Sheldon Jackson, then General Agent of Education in Alaska, was impressed with the fact that the natives in arctic and subarctic Alaska were rapidly losing their sources of food supply.

Whales, Walrus and Seals Grow Scarcer

"Each year the whales were going farther and farther north, beyond the reach of the natives, who had no steamships in which to pursue them; the walrus, which formerly had been seen in herds of thousands, were disappearing; the seals were becoming exterminated, and in winter the Eskimo had to tramp 15 to 20 miles out on the ice before he could catch one. The modern hunter, with his steam launches and rapid-fire guns, had found the whales, walrus, and seals such easy prey that he was ruthlessly destroying them. Also the wild caribou, that the native had easily captured before, had been frightened away and was rarely seen.

"Not only was the native losing his food, but what in an arctic climate is no less important, his clothing as well. The whalebone, the ivory tusks of the walrus, the seal skin, and the oil had given him means of barter with the Siberian traders across the Strait, from whom he obtained reindeer skins to keep him warm in winter.

"Dr. Jackson saw that unless something was done at once the United States would have to choose between feeding the 20,000 and more natives or letting them starve to death.

Moss Was the Key to Solution

"The same moss which covered so many thousands of miles of the plains of arctic Siberia was seen everywhere in Alaska. The tame reindeer was practically the same animal as the wild caribou of Alaska, changed by being domesticated for centuries.

"On his return to the United States in 1891, Dr. Jackson asked Congress for an appropriation to provide the money for importing a few deer. Congress was not convinced of the wisdom of such action, but several private persons were so interested that they placed $2,000 at Dr. Jackson's disposal to begin the experiment. The first deer were brought over that year. It was not long

The Russo-Turkish treaty of San Stefano was overturned by the Congress of Berlin, but Russia's aim in the Bessarabia was not denied. Thus Rumania, after helping Russia in her plight, came out of the war with less than she had when she went in.

A Land of Unique Beauties

Before Rumania was swept into the world maelstrom of 1914-1918 she was known as a land of unique beauties, not so much on account of scenery as because of her quaint villages, with whitewashed cottages, their doors and window frames painted in bright colors, and the attractive type of Rumanian peasant women.

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A RUMANIAN GIRL COMING FROM MARKET

before the government realized the importance of the movement, and in 1894 appropriated the sum of $6,000 to continue the work. Later the appropriation was increased and by 1900 amounted to $25,000 annually."

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TWO ESKIMO GIRLS IN CLOTH DRESSES

These dresses are put on over fur suits. In schools Eskimo girls are learning to sew; already their mothers have taught them to chew tough deerskin until it is as soft as velvet.